

## CONSERVATION AUTHORITY AND OVERVIEW

State law created conservation districts to provide grass roots leadership for developing and implementing conservation activities. In South Carolina, district boundaries are the same as county boundaries. There is a conservation district in each county. Conservation districts are subdivisions of state government.

Soil and water conservation districts are organized pursuant to Sec. 48-9-10 of the South Carolina Code of Laws. (*See appendix*) The Soil and Water Conservation Districts Law provides general powers and authorities of conservation districts and conservation district commissioners.

Conservation districts are unique; no other agency has the responsibility that districts have. If conservation activities are to take place within a district, the district must initiate them. Other government agencies and groups may assist in these efforts, but the responsibility rests, by law, with the conservation district. This is probably the most important aspect of conservation districts.

## CONSERVATION DISTRICT PURPOSES

- To be responsible to the citizens of the district in matters involving resource conservation.
- To promote the wise and responsible use of natural resources.
- To develop and implement programs to protect and conserve soil, water, farmland, wood land, wildlife, energy, and riparian and wetland resources.

This handbook will provide more information about districts and the details on how you, as a commissioner, can accomplish your responsibilities.